

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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TAGS: NATO, SENV

SUBJECT: CCMS: URBAN TRANSPORTATION PILOT STUDY

FROM WALSH

SUMMARY: DURING THE CCMS PLENARY AT NATO HEADQUARTERS ON OCTOBER 24 DELEGATES REVIEWED THE PROGRESS OF THE URBAN TRANSPORTATION PILOT STUDY, WITH REPORTS BEING RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. AS THE PILOT UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRY AND FROM BELGIUM, THE FRG, FRANCE, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THEIR RESPECTIVE SUB-PROJECTS. EACH OF THE FIVE SUB-PROJECTS-- ON URBAN TRAVEL FORECASTING, ON LOW COST BUS PRIORITY SYSTEMS, ON COLLECTION SYSTEMS EVALUATION, ON URBAN GOODS MOVEMENT, AND ON

THE EVALUATION OF SHORT DISTANCE TRANSPORT TECHNIQUES-- HAVE HAD INITIAL MEETINGS OF EXPERTS AND DEVELOPED FIRM WORK PROGRAMS. GENERAL SATISFACTION WAS EXPRESSED WITH THE OVERALL PROGRESS OF THIS PILOT STUDY DURING ITS FIRST HALF YEAR OF OPERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES IN 1972, THE URBAN TRANSPORTATION PILOT STUDY WAS APPROVED BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY, 1973. THE STUDY COMPRISES FIVE SUB-PROJECTS: (1) LOW COST BUS PRIORITY SYSTEMS, WHICH IS BEING LED BY THE U.K. AND WHICH IS CONCERNED WITH EVALUATING DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES OF GIVING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO BUSES IN URBAN TRAFFIC: (2) COLLECTION SYSTEMS EVALUATION, BEING LED BY BELGIUM WHICH IS CONCERNED WITH EVALUATING ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF FEEDING RIDERS INTO LINE-HAUL SYSTEMS AND GENERAL APPLICATIONS OF DEMAND RESPONSIVE SYSTEMS; (3) EVALUATION OF SHORT DISTANCE TRANSPORT TECHNIQUES, BEING LED BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, WHICH IS CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPING PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO USE IN CHOOSING THE MOST APPROPRIATE TYPE OF URBAN TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR THEIR OWN PARTICULAR NEEDS; (4) URBAN GOODS MOVEMENT, BEING LED BY FRANCE, WHICH IS CONCERNED WITH IMPROVING URBAN FREIGHT MOVEMENTS SO AS TO LESSEN THEIR UNDESIRABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONGESTION

IMPACTS; AND (5) URBAN TRAVEL FORECASTING, BEING LED BY THE UNITED STATES, WHICH IS CONCERNED WITH DEMONSTRATING THE FEASIBILITY OF A SIMPLIFIED, INEXPENSIVE PROCEDURE FOR MEASURING THE LIKELY TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF FUTURE URBAN TRAVEL DEMAND. REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS OF THESE PROJECTS WERE MADE TO THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE NATO CCMS, OCTOBER 24, 1973.

2. REPORTING ON THE LOW COST BUS PRIORITY SYSTEMS PROJECT, THE U.K. DELEGATE DESCRIBED ITS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF EXPERTS LAST MAY AND THE BROAD RANGE OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS NOW UNDERWAY IN HIS OWN COUNTRY AND IN CANADA, FRANCE, AND THE U.S. WHICH ARE PROJECT PARTICIPANTS. A SECOND MEETING OF EXPERTS IS PLANNED FOR JANUARY, 1974, IN LONDON WHERE A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT EXPERIMENTS BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL WILL BE OBSERVED. THE U.K. DELEGATE STATED THAT THIS PROJECT, WHICH DEPENDS ON THE EVALUATION OF PRACTICAL EXPERIMENTS TAKING SOME TIME TO COMPLETE, WILL, OF NECESSITY, BE OF RATHER LONG DURATION.

3. THE DELEGATE FROM BELGIUM, REPORTING ON THE COLLECTION SYSTEMS EVALUATION PROJECT, DESCRIBED THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF EXPERTS LAST MARCH AND THE FIRST PHASE OF A COLLECTION SYSTEM DEMONSTRATION BEING CONDUCTED IN WATERLOO. THIS FIRST PHASE, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED, CONSISTS OF A MAIL SURVEY OF HOUSEHOLDS TO DETERMINE TRAVEL DEMAND AND PREFERENCES. THE SURVEY EMPLOYS A QUESTIONNAIRE FORMAT THAT CAN BE DIRECTLY PROCESSED BY COMPUTER. A MEETING OF EXPERTS TO REVIEW THE WORK TO DATE

WILL BE HELD IN BRUSSELS NOVEMBER 12.

4. THE FRG LED PROJECT ON THE EVALUATION OF SHORT DISTANCE TRANSPORT TECHNIQUES HELD ITS INITIAL MEETING OF EXPERTS IN JULY IN BRUSSELS. IN THIS PROJECT, FRG SYSTEMS ANALYSTS ARE REVIEWEING THE BROAD RANGE OF TRANSPORT SYSTEMS AND TECHNIQUES SUITABLE FOR URBAN APPLICATION THAT ARE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING HELPFUL GUIDELINES ON DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA FOR USE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN MAKING TRANSIT INVESTMENTS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE FRG WILL BE SENDING QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE OTHER PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, I.E., CANADA, NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, U.S. AND U.K., TO ELICIT INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES AND POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN THIS AREA. A SECOND MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THIS PROJECT IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS FALL.

5. THE DELEGATE FROM FRANCE, REPORTING ON THE URBAN GOODS MOVEMENT PROJECT, DESCRIBED THE INITIAL MEETING OF EXPERTS HELD LAST APRIL IN PARIS. FRANCE STATED, WITH THE U.K. EXPRESSING SUPPORT, THAT SHE BELIEVED THAT THIS PROJECT COULD AND SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO COMPLETION SOON, ALTHOUGH IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULED TERMINATION DATE OF END 1973 MUST NOW BE VIEWED AS UNREALISTIC. THE U.S. TOOK THE VIEW THAT THIS PROJECT SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED OFF PREMATURELY, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF POTENTIALLY VALUABLE DEMONSTRATIONS IN THIS FIELD WILL NOT BE COMPLETED FOR MANY MONTHS. FRANCE REITERATED HER VIEW THAT THE PROJECT SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO A TIMELY FINISH, IN NO EVENT LATER THAN END 1974.
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THE UNITED STATES AGREED THAT IT WOULD WORK WITHIN THAT TIME FRAME.

6. THE UNITED STATES, REPORTING ON THE URBAN TRAVEL FORECASTING PROJECT, DESCRIBED THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ITS FIRST PHASE. IN THAT PHASE TE UNITED STATES RECEIVED FROM THE OTHER PARTI- CIPANTS-- THE FRG, BELGIUM, AND THE U.K. -- SMAPLES OF HOUSEHOLD SURVEY AND RELATED ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR EVALUATION AS TO THEIR COMPATABILITY AND SUITABILITY IN A MULTI-COUNTRY DEMONSTRATION OF THE U.S. PROPOSED SIMPLIFIED FORECASTING PROCEDURE. THE RESULTANT PROGNOSIS WAS FAVORABLE AND IN A SECOND MEETING IN LONDON, OCTOBER 18 AND 19, THE EXPERTS AGREED ON THE SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT PHASE, DURING WHICH THE U.S. WILL TEST THE PROCEDURE EMPLOYING ACTUAL SURVEY DATA FROM ALL THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. THE U.S. WILL PREPARE A REPORT OF ITS ANALYSIS BY JUNE, 1974. LOOKING TO A FINAL REPORT ON THE PROJECT BY THE FALL PLENARY 1974.IRWIN

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